

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 3 and 8 will have been amended to clarify the recitations thereof. Claims 11 and 12 will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Claim 13 will have been rewritten into independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and claim 14 will have been amended to clarify the recitations thereof.

In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections asserted in the above-mentioned Official Action.

Initially, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for accepting the drawings filed in the present application on November 6, 2003. Applicants further respectfully thank the Examiner for acknowledging their Claim for Foreign Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and for confirming receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by KIM et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,905,843). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over KIM et al. in view of BATTEN, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,771,281).

The Examiner indicated the allowability of claims 1-10. Additionally, the Examiner indicated claims 13 and 14 as being objected to for depending from a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Applicants thank the Examiner for his indication of allowability and for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Without in any way acquiescing in the propriety of the Examiner's rejections asserted against claims 11 and 12, and merely in order to expedite the allowance of the remaining claims in the present application, Applicants have rewritten claim 13 into independent form including the limitations of the base claim.

Accordingly, at least in accordance with the Examiner's indication, all the claims in the present application are now in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request an indication to such effect in due course.

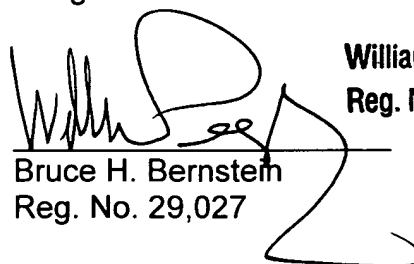
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have amended several claims to clarify the recitations thereof. Applicants have further rewritten an objected to claim into independent form without in any way acquiescing in the propriety of the Examiner's rejection. Accordingly, Applicants have placed the present application into condition for allowance by canceling the rejected claims.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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